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WESTERN TURBINE XIX

Palm Springs, Calif, March 15 - 18

HRSG XVII

Jacksonville, Fla, April 6 - 8

Welcome to all participating in these first-class user-group events. Those readers not able to attend can catch up on what they missed in the exhibit halls by reviewing our show coverage, which begins on p 63 for the Western Turbine Users Inc (WTUI) conference and on p 91 for the HRSG User's Group meeting. Special reports on the technical content of both conferences are scheduled for the 3Q/2009 issue. Hopefully, our coverage here and in the fall will help convince you to put one or both meetings on your 2010 calendar.

The Western Turbine annual conference and exhibition, which focuses on GE Energy aero engines in power-generation, pipeline, and ship-propulsion service, is probably the largest gas-turbine (GT) user meeting in the world. Last year it attracted more than 800 participants—including several hundred owner/operators of LM2500, LM5000, LM6000, and LMS100 machines. This year's exhibition features products and services from well over 100 companies. No other GT user-group meeting is close in numbers of attendees and exhibitors.

Aero owner/operators come to the WTUI conference each spring because they know they'll benefit from the latest thinking on how to operate and maintain GTs for maximum reliability, availability, and efficiency—and with the lowest emissions possible. Everyone needs a periodic "refresher" course and there's no better place to get that on GE aeros than at the breakout sessions here. Your questions will be answered by a colleague in the room, or you'll be referred to someone who can get you the information. The foundation of Western Turbine's success is the dedicated group of officers and board members—volunteers all—who develop and chair the technical sessions.

The HRSG User's Group focuses on helping its 1500-plus members in more than 50 countries solve problems associated with the steam-cycle portion of GT-based combined-cycle and cogeneration facilities. The organization's annual conference and exposition is, perhaps, the largest gathering in the world of owner/operators specializing in Rankine systems and equipment. It traditionally draws about 350 participants; many are plant managers and heads of O&M departments. This year the exposition will house more than 70 booths.

Two things that the Western Turbine and HRSG meetings have in common, and which may contribute significantly to their success, are the following:

- Exhibition hall is open for a nominal eight hours across three days. Vendor fairs at other user group meetings in this industry typically are open for three hours on one evening.
- Users, consultants, and equipment/services suppliers are invited to participate in all sessions at the HRSG meeting and all but a couple of breakout sessions at Western Turbine. Technical sessions developed by most other groups are user-only.

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